



Testimony on SB 264

AN ACT CONCERNING A QUALIFIED DEDUCTION FROM MEDICAID APPLIED INCOME FOR CONSERVATOR COST

Aging Committee,

Honorable Members of the Aging Committee.

My name is Carol Scully and I'm the Director of Advocacy for The Arc of Connecticut, Inc. the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD) and promoting opportunities for those individuals to be included in the full lives of their communities.

The Arc of Connecticut supports proposed SB 264 as it applies to persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) on Medicaid waivers. Many persons with IDD have conservators so they have the assistance and support they need to live in their communities. Often, conservators are family members who may not need or expect to be paid for their services to their loved ones, however, conservators who are attorneys or have been court appointed, are often serving in these roles without being compensated. The Arc of Connecticut recommends that safeguards be implemented and monitored by the Probate Court to mitigate any abuse of the conservator in charging for services.

The Arc of Connecticut support also agrees with the following suggestion from Connecticut Legal Services when they "suggest adding the following sentence at the end of Sec. 1(a): "Any such qualified deduction for conservator expenses and probate court fees and expenses shall only be made to applied income after all other deductions provided in the state Medicaid plan in effect on January 1, 2022, have already been made. "To authorize a qualified deduction from the income a Medicaid applicant or recipient must apply to the cost of care and not treat payment made by a Medicaid applicant or recipient to a conservator as an improper transfer of assets.

The Arc of Connecticut supports SB 264 with these proposed changes to the allowable expenditures under Medicaid waiver individual expenses.

Respectively submitted,

Carol Scully
Director of Advocacy
The Arc CT
cscully@thearcct.org
860-989-1688 (m)